

REPORTED INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

Objective

By 1990, the annual reported incidence of tuberculosis should be reduced to eight per 100,000 population.

Explanatory Notes

Due to a change in reporting criteria, data prior to 1975 are not shown.

Findings

The North Carolina rate dropped 43 percent between 1980 and 1985 only to rise again in 1986. Although the increase may reflect only random fluctuation, epidemiologists suspect that HTLV-III/LAV infection (AIDS) may be responsible for increased tuberculosis morbidity in some areas that have large numbers of AIDS cases. Theoretically, there is reason to believe that compromised immunity secondary to AIDS may favor activation of preexisting tuberculosis infection. (3)

Even if the AIDS theory is not relevant, projections indicate that North Carolina likely will not achieve the 1990 target rate of 8.0. Nationally, the objective could be met, depending on the tuberculosis-AIDS association (3).

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics
United States: Centers for Disease Control